

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 987

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Donald Tarr of Mountain City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Donald Tarr of Mountain City; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Tarr was an esteemed physician and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on May 4, 1929, in Napa Valley, California, to Wilfred Tarr and Jewel Ward Tarr, Dr. Tarr graduated from the University of California, Irvine, College of Medicine in 1962 and devoted more than sixty years of his life to the practice of medicine; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his career in the medical field, Dr. Tarr was also an acclaimed NASCAR driver; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Tarr made his NASCAR Cup Series debut in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1967 and posted a career-best sixth in the Coca-Cola 600 in 1969; he had five top-ten finishes in seventeen races in 1970 before relocating to Mountain City to practice rural medicine in 1971; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tarr led a colorful life marked by a series of firsts; he was the first race car driver to be sponsored by Coca-Cola, the first driver to broadcast from an in-car radio on ABC's *Wide World of Sports*, the first chief of staff for Johnson County Memorial Hospital, and the owner of the first Days Inn Hotel in Johnson County; and

WHEREAS, as a family medicine specialist, Dr. Donald Tarr treated all types of ailments and injuries, and he was known for his ability to manage complicated diagnoses or deliver disappointing news with a gentle, comforting tone and a plan; and

WHEREAS, wholly committed to serving the needs of his community, Dr. Tarr was an early supporter of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and provided generous support to Niswonger's Children Hospital, where he was a longtime board member; and

WHEREAS, an enthusiastic patron of Heritage Hall Theater who will be remembered vividly by many for the comical characters he played, Dr. Donald Tarr was also the president of the Rotary Club and loved to organize events for Mountain City; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Tarr was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church of Mountain City, where he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Tarr enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of thirty-five years, Carole Tarr; and he will be lovingly remembered by his daughter, Cara Lynn Tarr Sanderson; his son, William (Connie) Tarr; his sister, Lorraine Dawson; his grandchildren, Andrew Tarr, Jeffrey Tarr, Kathryn Tarr Schuessler, Evan Tarr, Erica Sanderson, and Adam Sanderson; his great-grandchildren, Bryson, Caden, Nathan, Kendall, Bennett, Jackie, Evie, Kenny, and Callie; and several nieces, nephews, and many special friends; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his parents; his sons, Jimmy Tarr and Gene Tarr; and his sisters, Elaine Dodd and Sylvia Shiftlet; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Tarr leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. Donald Tarr, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Tarr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.